

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Every human has imagination to represent their dreams in life. Those imaginations also beautify the way of thinking and creating new ideas. Further, they can be drawn as literary works to be read and entertained other people. Most of the literary works express the feeling, thought, and attitude of human life. It makes people interested in reading those works. Moreover, it will be such pleasure for people to enjoy literary works.

One of the forms of literary works is Prose. Prose is the ordinary form of spoken or written language which fulfills innumerable functions and attains many different kinds of excellence (Gross, 1998 : 42). It means that prose is a work of fiction that is made by human to express their mind and idea. Meanwhile, short story is fictional work of prose that is shorter in length than a novel {“The Philosophy of Composition” page 2 of 163 (<http://www.eapoe.org/works/essays/philcomp.html>) accessed on March 9th 2017}. It consists of 1,000 to 20,000 words which focuses on one plot, one main character with a few additional minor characters, and one central theme, whereas a novel can tackle multiple plots and themes, with a variety of prominent characters.

Some short stories which were well-known as American literary work were written by the popular 19th-century American author, novelist, journalist,

publisher and editor, Timothy Shay Arthur. He was a voluminous writer of tales of domestic life, and also prepared a series of histories of the different states of the union. The entire number of volumes of Mr. Arthur`s works exceeds one hundred. Among his books are *Lights and Shadows of Real Life*, *Tales for Rich and Poor*, *Library for the Household*, *Ten Nights in a Bar-Room*, and *Steps to Heaven*. All his stories have some moral end in view, many of them being devoted to the support of the temperance cause. He also publishes a book consisting some collection of his short stories entitled *After A Shadow*.

Timothy Shay Arthur writes some stories in *After A Shadow* which are dominant in displaying the woman struggle. In *After A Shadow*, he tries to reveal another side of woman whose existence wants to be avowed in society. Among the stories, the women characters battle from the inequality they get to prove that they are able to do what the society thinks they can not do. Each character shows woman struggle which is different from one another. Women struggle from the physical disability, discrimination, and social relationship. Hence, there are three short stories chosen as the representation of the woman struggle namely, *An Angel in Disguise*, *Little Lizzie*, and *Coffee vs. Brandy*.

An Angel in Disguise is a short story which shows the real destiny of little girl`s struggle named Maggie who is hopelessly diseased as she has ever fallen down from the window and injured her spine. The struggle of Maggie has played important role in the story which leads the plot becoming more attractive to be enjoyed. As an angel disguised as sick, hopeless, and miserable girl, Maggie proves that being in the worst condition of life will never affect her not

to be angle for others. Hence, the researcher would like to show that Maggie's struggles can be influenced not only for herself but also for other characters, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Thompson in the story entitled *An Angel in Disguise*.

Meanwhile, another story of Timothy Shay Arthur which shows the woman struggle is *Little Lizzie*. It tells about the condition of Lizzie's family which is ruined because of the bad habit of her father that he likes to get drunk every night. The struggle of Lizzie shows the deep feeling of daughter toward her father as the cause to struggle for getting her father back to her family. It shows how the little girl braves herself to take risk by confronting her father to quit drinking liquor. After she has done her struggle, her father will have finally returned home and quitted drinking. The result of her struggle affects the other character in the story namely, her father and her mother.

On the other hand, the story of *Coffee vs. Brandy* reflects other woman struggle. The main character of this story is Mrs. Eldridge. Mrs. Eldridge's struggle is different from the both stories above. She manages to break the old tradition of the wedding party in her family. Her struggle is influenced by her son, Henry, who suggests that she has to have a better wedding party for Mrs. Eldridge's niece, Fanny. Mrs. Eldridge has inside struggle in her own self as she does not want to break the tradition, however, her son's opinion is also good for her family. Mrs. Eldridge plays the woman role in society where she becomes the one who can figure out what is better for her family. Even though the story of *Coffee vs. Brandy* does not have more complex story as much as the former

stories it contributes the reality of woman who struggles to maintain the life choice in every single thing.

Therefore, those three stories of woman struggle are written to display the movement of women to get her rights in getting equality and existence in social relationship life avowed. The research, hence, focuses on the woman struggle which has been shown in those stories which influence other characters in each story. The topic chosen in the study is the main characters' namely Maggie in *An Angel in Disguise*, Lizzie in *Little Lizzie*, and Mrs. Eldridge in *Coffee vs. Brandy*, struggles in life.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Dealing with the preceding discussion in this writing, the study is formulated with the following questions:

1. What are the woman struggles of the main characters in Timothy Shay Arthur's *An Angel in Disguise*, *Little Lizzie*, and *Coffee vs. Brandy*?
2. What are the influences of woman struggle to other characters in Timothy Shay Arthur's *An Angel in Disguise*, *Little Lizzie*, and *Coffee vs. Brandy*?

1.3 The Scope of the Study

To limit the problem is very significant in this research in order to get clearer understanding. The short story which are analyzed by the researcher is *An Angel in Disguise*, *Little Lizzie*, and *Coffee vs. Brandy*. They are written by Timothy Shay Arthur. The researcher focuses only on the main character named

Maggie in *An Angel in Disguise*, Lizzie in *Little Lizzie*, and Mrs. Eldridge in *Coffee vs. Brandy*. In the story entitled *An Angel in Disguise* Maggie shows her struggle in her life of being in inability to do anything, yet proves to be good influences to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Thompson. Furthermore, in *Little Lizzie*, Lizzie keeps struggling for her father to come back home and quit drinking liquor that influences her father and mother. At last, in *Coffee vs. Brandy*, Mrs. Eldridge intends to break the old rules of wedding party for her niece that becomes confusing struggle inside herself. Mrs. Eldridge's struggle effects other characters in story, her husband, Henry, and the quests of wedding party.

1.4 The Objective of the Study

In line with the problems that have stated above, the research is aimed:

1. To describe the woman struggles of the main characters in Timothy Shay Arthur's *An Angel in Disguise*, *Little Lizzie*, and *Coffee vs. Brandy*.
2. To figure out the influences of woman struggle to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Thompson in Timothy Shay Arthur's *An Angel in Disguise*, *Little Lizzie*, and *Coffee vs. Brandy*.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

The significance of this research is to enrich and deepen the knowledge of understanding the woman struggle in the character of Maggie in *An Angel in Disguise*, Lizzie in *Little Lizzie*, and Mrs. Eldridge in *Coffee vs. Brandy*. Besides that, the researcher shows how Maggie who is disguised as sick and hopeless

girl can be an angel for Mr. and Mrs. Joe Thompson's life. Secondly, it is about Lizzie's action to get her father back that influences her parents. Lastly, it is also displayed the struggle of Mrs. Eldridge to break the tradition of her family's wedding party which get good feedback from her family and party guests. Eventually, the result of this research can be used to provide and give additional information for those who are interested in American literature, especially in the works of Timothy Shay Arthur.